



U.S. Department of Justice

*United States Attorney
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NEWS SUMMARY: 2-6 Vice Lords Arrested for Drug Trafficking

On May 12, 2005, federal and local law enforcement officers arrested members and associates of a Milwaukee gang known historically as the 2-6 Vice Lords for drug trafficking and related offenses. This gang has operated for a number of years on the north side of Milwaukee, primarily in the neighborhood bordered by North 20th to 27th Streets, between Lisbon and North Avenues.

To date, 21 individuals have been indicted by a grand jury in the Eastern District of Wisconsin with drug and gun related offenses in connection with the case. There is one outstanding arrest warrant in the case.

The investigation of the case has proceeded in two phases. During the first phase, six members of the charged conspiracy were arrested, one in late July 2004, the other five between December 9 and 11, 2004. At the time of the December arrests, over four kilograms of crack cocaine were seized. All six members arrested during the first phase were indicted in the Eastern District of Wisconsin. All have pled guilty and are awaiting sentencing. All face mandatory minimum prison sentences ranging from 10 to 20 years, and all face maximums sentences of up to life imprisonment.

The arrests on May 12, 2005, were part of the second phase of the investigation.

The charges arise out of a joint year-long investigation conducted by members of the High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area Task Force; officers from the Milwaukee Police Department Gang Crimes Unit; agents from the Federal Bureau of Investigation, Internal Revenue Service, and Wisconsin Department of Justice Division of Criminal Investigation; deputies from the Milwaukee County Sheriff's Department; and the United States Attorney's Office. Milwaukee investigators have worked extensively with their federal and state counterparts in Illinois, Missouri, Oklahoma, and Texas.

Based on the charges in three separate federal indictments unsealed today, most members of the group face a mandatory minimum term of imprisonment of 10 years and up to life in prison without parole, as well as fines up to \$4,000,000. Some of those charged have felony drug convictions and under federal law face either mandatory minimum sentences of 20 years or life without release.

Two individuals are charged with illegally purchasing firearms from a federally licensed firearms dealer for members of the group who were themselves prohibited from buying firearms, and face up to ten years' in prison and fines up to \$250,000

To date, law enforcement has seized more than 4.5 kilograms of crack cocaine, \$438,000 in cash, 11 guns, and six vehicles from members and associates of the 2-6 Vice Lords.

The case has been assigned to Assistant United States Attorneys John J. Manning and Elizabeth Blackwood.

Charged in federal court are the following:

Tarrance Jenkins, age 24, of Milwaukee
Lawrence T. Turner, age 31, of Milwaukee
Cornelius D. Turner, age 29, of Milwaukee
Lawrence Terry, Jr. age 37, of Milwaukee
Cornelius Sirmons, age 32, of Milwaukee
Demetrius D. Thompson, age 30, of Chappell, Texas
Aaron Christen, age 25, of Milwaukee
Leshon Christen, age 30, of Milwaukee
Larneal Davis, age 24, of Milwaukee
Jovan Holmes, age 26, of Milwaukee
DeRay Owens, age 30, of Milwaukee (arrested outside Dallas, Texas)
Antonio Patterson, age 29, of Milwaukee
Ronnie B. Nelson, age 26, of Milwaukee
Equron Rawls, age 22, of Milwaukee
Savonta Rawls, age 21, of Milwaukee
Tosha Rudd, age 28, of Milwaukee
Randy Scott, age 25, of Milwaukee
Sharita L. Jackson, age 22, of Milwaukee

The public is cautioned that a criminal indictment is merely the formal method of returning charges against an individual and does not constitute inference of his or her guilt. An individual is presumed innocent until such time, if ever, that the government establishes his or her guilt beyond a reasonable doubt.

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